

# EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

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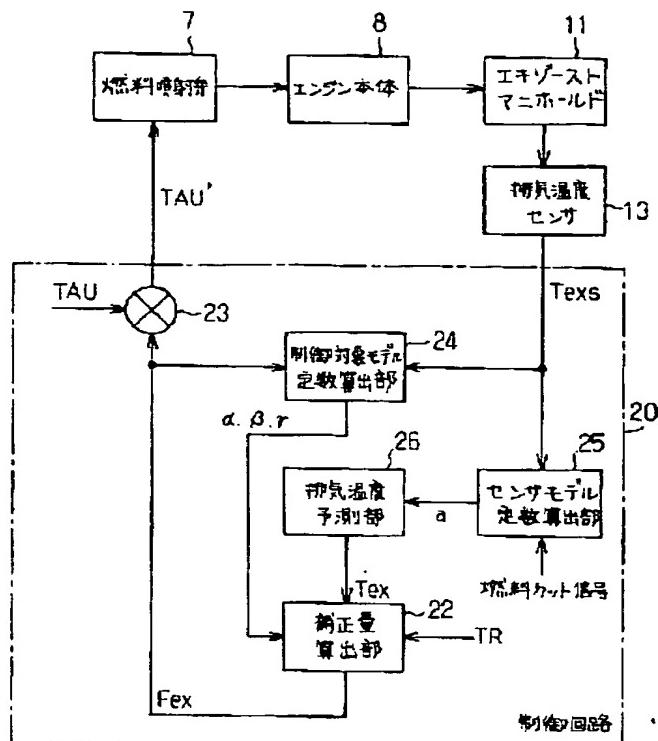
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TITLE : TEMPERATURE CONTROLLER OF  
 EXHAUST EMISSION CONTROL  
 DEVICE



**ABSTRACT :** PURPOSE: To accurately control the temperature of a catalytic converter, so as to improve purifying efficiency, by judging the activating state of a catalyst through a process of estimating the temperature of the three-way catalytic converter by using the model constant and the model opposite to the model wherein the response delay of a three-way catalytic converter temperature detecting means is estimated, on the basis of the temperature of the three-way catalytic converter.

**CONSTITUTION:** A control circuit 20 for controlling the fuel injection amount of a fuel injection valve 7 according to the operating state is provided with an exhaust gas temperature sensor 13 as a sensor for detecting the temperature of a three-way catalytic converter, and the output signal is inputted into a sensor model constant calculating unit 25. The model constant of the model wherein the detecting response delay of the temperature sensor 13 is estimated is calculated in real time. The temperature of the three-way catalytic converter is estimated by using the calculated model constant and the model opposite to the model wherein the response delay of the exhaust temperature sensor 13 is estimated on the basis of the temperature detected by the exhaust gas temperature sensor 13. When the estimated temperature is less than the target temperature, the control for raising the exhaust gas temperature to activate a catalyst is carried out.

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